Media across the nation and beyond seek out Watts College faculty’s expertise for coverage of death of George Floyd

In the aftermath of the death of Minneapolis resident George Floyd while in police custody, national and international media contacted Watts College, particularly its School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ), in search of expert opinions on police use of force, police culture, race relations, and possible solutions. An open letter signed by 36 faculty members was posted on the CCJ website and an op-ed based on it appeared in the Saturday, June 27, opinion section of the Arizona Republic. CCJ Professor Edward Maguire and instructor Kevin Robinson talked to more than four dozen journalists whose work appeared in newspapers, websites, TV stations, wire services and broadcast networks in June. Here are highlights of the news coverage:

EDWARD MAGUIRE, CCJ professor

- June 11, 2020: “Seattle Officials Rebuff Trump Threats As They Struggle with Protesters’ ‘Autonomous Zone’,” Sinclair Broadcast Group (9 stations including News3LV in Las Vegas)
- June 5, 2020: “Rubber Bullets and Flash-Bangs Don’t Just Tear Through Crowds – They Jeopardize Years of Police Reform,” by Jon Schuppe, NBC News
- June 5, 2020: “We Asked A Police Training Expert All about Protest Response This Week. Here’s What He Said,” Texas Standard
• June 4, 2020: "How U.S. Police Used Military Tactics to Turn Peaceful Protests Violent," by Nicole Kobie, Wired UK (United Kingdom)
• June 3, 2020: "Why Do Tampa Bay’s Police Keep Clashing with Protesters?", by Zach Sampson, Tampa Bay (Fla.) Times
• June 3, 2020: "White House Says Officers Didn’t Fire Tear Gas, Rubber Bullets on Protesters, Why That’s Misleading." by Jon Greenberg, PolitiFact
• June 3, 2020: "Gunning for the Last Resort," by Rebecca Onion, Slate
• June 3, 2020: "Making Sense of the Senseless," by Collen Flaherty, Inside Higher Ed
• June 3, 2020: "Curfew Can Quell Violence – Also Spark More Protests.,” by Aarian Marshall, Wired
• June 2, 2020: "Both the Left and the Right Rush to Blame Protest Violence on Outside Extremists," by Richard Read, Jenny Jarvie and Molly Hennessy-Fiske, Los Angeles Times, picked up in more than 20 other media outlets including Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Sacramento Bee, Fresno Bee, Modesto Bee, Tacoma (Wash.) News-Tribune, Wichita (Kan.) Eagle, Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader, The (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer
• June 2, 2020: "What the George Floyd Protests Reveal about Policing in the U.S.,” by Brittany Knotts, Adam Walker and Meghna Chakrabarti, WBUR-FM, Boston
• June 2, 2020: “Judge: Evidence Lacking Against Man Charged with Shooting at Boston Police,” by Ryan Kath and Jim Haddadin, NBC-Boston
• June 1, 2020: "Why So Many Police Are Handling the Protests All Wrong," by Maggie Koerth and Jamiles Lartey, The Marshall Project
• May 31, 2020: “If You Come Up to a Peaceful Demonstration and Handle It Like a Riot, It Becomes A Riot,” Hakon Fostervold Hoydal, Verdens Gang (Norway)
• May 31, 2020: “Police Blame ‘Out-of-State’ Agitators But Those at the Heart of Protests are Homegrown,” by Brett Murphy, Josh Salman and Dak Le, USA Today in the Detroit Free Press, and picked up by more than 40 media outlets including the Indianapolis Star, Des Moines Register, Charleston (S.C.) Courier-Post, Lansing (Mich.) State Journal, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel


KEVIN ROBINSON, CCJ instructor, former Phoenix assistant police chief

• June 26, 2020: “Investigation: Police Ignore FBI Request for ‘Use of Force’ Data,” by Mark Greenblatt and Nicholas McMillan, Newsy, also carried on more than a dozen other TV outlets including KNXV-TV (ABC15, Phoenix), KGTV (San Diego), WEWS-TV (Cleveland) and WXYZ-TV (Detroit)

• June 13, 2020: “George Floyd Is Not Alone. ‘I Can’t Breathe’ Uttered by Dozens in Fatal Police Holds Across U.S.,” by Katie Waddell, Cara Kelly, Camille McManus, Christine Fernando, USA Today (also appeared in more than a dozen other outlets, including Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Green Bay (Wis.) Press-Gazette, Great Falls (Mont.) Tribune, Poughkeepsie (N.Y.) Journal, Greenville (S.C.) News

• June 20, 2020: “Suspended Twice for ‘Unnecessary Force’,” KNXV-TV (ABC15, Phoenix, also on KGUN-TV, ABC9, Tucson)

• June 12, 2020: “Push for Increased Body Camera Use A Double-Edged Sword,” by Heather van Blokland, KJZZ-FM

• June 11, 2020: “Former Assistant Phoenix Police Chief Criticizes ‘Defund the Police’ Demands,” with Lauren Gilger and Steve Goldstein, KJZZ-FM

• June 10, 2020: “Police Choke-Holds,” KPNX-TV and KTAZ-TV

• June 10, 2020: “Defunding the Police,” KTAR-FM

• June 9, 2020: “What Does It Mean to ‘Defund the Police’?” Monica Garcia, Arizona’s Family


• June 8, 2020: “As Protests Continue Throughout the Country, Some Are Calling to ‘Defund the Police’,” KNXV-TV (ABC15-Phoenix), KGUN-TV (9-Tucson)

• June 6, 2020: “Phoenix Police Chief Jeri Williams,” with John Hook, Fox 10 Newsmaker Sunday, KSAZ-TV (Fox 10-Phoenix)
OTHER WATTS FACULTY

In addition to Maguire’s and Robinson’s interviews, several other members of the CCJ, SPA and SSW faculty wrote articles of their own or were interviewed by news media on topics ranging from police reform to police and government budgeting:

**James Herbert Williams** (SSW), June 25, 2020, “‘A Need for A Stronger Partnership’: A Social Worker’s Perspective on Police Reform,” with Lauren Gilger, KJZZ-FM (NPR-Phoenix)

**Cody Telep** (CCJ), June 22, 2020: “Is Police Reform a Fundamentally Flawed Idea?” by Amelia Thomson-DeVeaux and Maggie Koerth, Fivethirtyeight.com

**Jon B. Gould** (CCJ), June 30, 2020: “Push to Defund Police Departments...,” with Syleste Rodriguez, KSAZ-TV (Fox10, Phoenix).


**Michael Scott** (CCJ), June 13, 2020: “Defunding the Police,” for JURIST

**Akheil Singla** (SPA), June 11, 2020: “Tempe City Council to Meet Thursday for Public Budget Hearing,” by Piper Hansen, ASU State Press
Jerry Oliver (SPA), June 12, 2020: “ASU Criminology Faculty Dives into Police Reform,” by Chris Caraveo, Independent Newsmedia (Phoenix)


Bill Terrill (CCJ), June 2, 2020: “Death of George Floyd Brings Out Need for Change,” Arizona Horizon, KAET-TV (PBS-Phoenix)

“The protest movement sweeping America is focused on systemic racism and police brutality here at home,” writes School of Public Affairs Professor Ethan Kapstein in the New York Daily News. “But America’s racism doesn’t end at our borders. We have long mistreated people of color far from the United States as well.” Professor Kapstein is also senior director for research at the McCain Institute for International Leadership in Washington, D.C.


Punishment as the answer to crime has failed to win the War on Drugs or prevent the current opioid epidemic, and it has not played a significant role in declines in crime in big cities like New York, argue Assistant Professor Adam Fine of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ) and co-author Benjamin Van Rooij, law professor at the University of California, Irvine, in an essay for The Hill. Much better ways exist, they say.

Expanding public service learning opportunities to undergraduates nationwide is the goal of the Next Generation Service Partnership, a venture of both the Volcker Alliance and the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions. It will leverage the knowledge and experience of the college’s Public Service Academy’s “amazing team,” said Dean Jonathan Koppell.


Since March, most American schoolchildren have been out of school, becoming “unwitting subjects in a grand, unethical social experiment”, unethical because “there has been no informed consent, either from parents, children, or even our elected representatives,” writes School of Public Affairs Director Donald Siegel along with David Waldman, management professor at ASU’s W.P. Carey School of Business and Robert M. Sauer, economics professor at the University of London.

- June 25, 2020: “CDC Has Become Centers for the Destruction of Childhood,” by Donald Siegel, Robert M. Sauer and David Waldman for the American Institute for Economic Research

Social distancing may be benevolent as its aim is public health, but “mandatory social distancing constitutes the greatest single political act of theft in history,” argues Siegel and two co-authors in the Jerusalem Post.

- June 1, 2020: “Mandatory Social Distancing: The Greatest Theft of All Time,” by Robert M. Sauer, Donald S. Siegel and David Waldman, The Jerusalem Post

Siegel and co-author David Waldman (of ASU’s W.P. Carey School of Business) talked about the subject of their Jerusalem Post article with interviewer Seth Leibsohn:

- May 26, 2020: “Don Siegel and David Waldman,” on the Seth Leibsohn Show

Siegel and Sauer (of the University of London) also wrote about what they say are the dangers of mandatory social distancing for The Conservative Woman:

- June 1, 2020: “The Real Enemy? Infectious Disease ‘Experts’,” Donald S. Siegel and Robert M. Sauer for The Conservative Woman
A profile of opportunities for ASU students to remotely volunteer to serve the community during the COVID-19 pandemic featured the Public Allies Arizona program. It is administered by the Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation, directed by Robert Ashcraft, in the School of Community Resources and Development (SCRD). The “full-time AmeriCorps apprenticeship program … pairs young people with nonprofit organizations. The allies are paid for their work over the 10-month period and then receive a grant to pay for tuition, professional development or to apply to student debt.”

- June 25, 2020: “ASU Community Continues Humanitarian Help Remotely During Pandemic,” by Mary Beth Faller, ASU Now

Youth sports’ return to life after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic likely will be more highly localized than in the past, as parents could well be disinclined to have their families travel long distances to compete, said School of Community Resources and Development (SCRD) Assistant Professor Eric Legg at a recent ASU virtual panel discussion.

- June 16, 2020: “ASU Panel Discusses How Time Away, High Costs Might Lower Participation,” by Mary Beth Faller, ASU Now

About 45 million people travel in Arizona for leisure and business and spend $25 billion each year — $67 million per day — so the COVID-19 pandemic’s arrival in the height of the state’s tourism season came at a particularly bad time, said School of Community Resources and Development (SCRD) Professor Christine Vogt in one of several videos featuring ASU faculty’s views on pandemic-related subjects. Vogt added, however, that the market will be responsive toward the recovery of the industry.

- June 2, 2020: “ASU Professors… Share Quick Insights Via Video on Topics Related to the Pandemic,” by ASU Now
Sports business insiders making video presentations to an online summer session class on sports tourism taught by School of Community Resources and Development (SCRD) Clinical Assistant Professor Erin Schneiderman predict a return to spectator sports in the U.S., but how fast and how strongly they do so depends on a number of factors, including public confidence in facility safety.


New York Times Pulitzer-Prize-winning writer Claire Cain Miller cited research by School of Public Affairs (SPA) Associate Professor Chris Herbst, Research Assistant Professor Christos Makridis of the ASU W.P. Carey School of Business and graduate student Umair Ali in a May 27 Times article arguing for government subsidization of child care. In her article, Miller cited a May 2020 paper written by Herbst, Makridis and Ali for the Germany-based IZT (Institute of Labor Economics). Miller wrote that the research found “that job postings for early education teachers declined 13 percent in the immediate aftermath of stay-home orders, which equates to the sector losing the capacity to serve 10,000 children each month. But the decreases came only from private programs.”


Survivor Link, a team of Arizona State University educators, students, faculty members including School of Social Work Professor Jill Messing, left, and community volunteers who work to promote healthy relationships and provide domestic violence interventions in the community, will receive the 2020 President’s Medal for Social Embeddedness at a fall ceremony.

A first-of-its kind map from the Kyl Center for Water Policy at the Morrison Institute for Public Policy, called the Arizona Water Blueprint, visualizes information on groundwater, rivers, agricultural irrigation, dams, ocean desalination, critical species and other concepts important to both policymakers and all Arizonans, ASU Now reported. The map creates a holistic view of water in Arizona that was missing, according to Kyl Center Director Sarah Porter.

- June 29, 2020: “New Map Tool Illustrates Arizona Water Issues,” by Katherine Davis-Young, KJZZ-FM (NPR-Phoenix)

OTHER KYL CENTER STORIES

- June 7, 2020: “Study Says Phoenix Reservoirs Are Resilient to Warming, Scientists Warn,” by Ian James, Arizona Republic/azcentral.com

STORIES ABOUT THE MORRISON/ARIZONA REPUBLIC POLL

- June 29, 2020: “Make Less Than $55,000? There Might Not Be Enough Affordable Housing for You,” by Jessica Boehm, Arizona Republic/azcentral.com

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